

Opening Address

**By Asst. Prof. Dr. Suebsang Promboon
Vice Minister for Education, Thailand
at the 33rd SEAMEO High Officials Meeting
22 November 2010 at 15.00 hrs.
Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok**

Distinguished High Officials of SEAMEO Member Countries and
Associate Member Countries,

Dato Dr. Ahamad bin Sipon , Director, SEAMEO Secretariat

Directors of SEAMEO Regional Centres and Network Secretary General,

Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege and pleasure for me/ to be part of this
gathering for the Opening Ceremony/of the 33rd SEAMEO High
Officials Meeting here in Bangkok. I would like to begin by extending a
very warm welcome/ to all of the meeting's distinguished guests.

I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to everyone at the

SEAMEO Secretariat/ who has been involved in the organization of this meeting.

For forty five years now SEAMEO Member Countries have worked together to cultivate cooperation in education and training to improve the overall quality of life for all our peoples. This cooperation has contributed to the alleviation poverty and ill health in Southeast Asia, in line with the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), and moved us closer towards achievement of the six EFA goals. It has also helped to enhance regional understanding and created unity of purpose over the future development of the region as one community with a common vision and recognized core values.

In this regard, Thailand looks forward to the presentation of the SEAMEO draft strategic plan during this meeting, which will set the course for the next 10 years. This is SEAMEO's first strategic plan

since the Ministers of Education agreed to strengthen the relationship between SEAMEO and ASEAN back in 2005. From 2006, the existing forums of the two organizations have been used as a platform to better integrate their programmes and activities.

One positive example is the establishment of ten collaborative projects for reaching the unreached in which the SEAMEO units act as the implementing arm. I am sure the 2011-2020 strategic plan builds on other synergies and explore ways to realize our shared aspirations for enhancing the region's potential in the global market. If we are to move forward as one community, the plan's formulation should be consistent with the five year education plan of ASEAN (2011-2015) that will be reported to the SOM-ED on November 24th

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Education, Thailand is very proud to be working closely with SEAMEO and its nineteen regional centers, as well as under the ASEAN framework, towards raising the quality of education in the Southeast Asia region and promoting regional understanding and cooperation. I have every confidence that, with the continued dedication and commitment of the High Officials, this meeting will achieve its objectives and complete the tasks assigned to it by the SEAMEO Council.

May I now declare the 33rd High Officials of SEAMEO Member Countries Meeting open.

Thank you.